

The art and mystery of leaded glass

THOSE who came to the April meeting of Wiveliscombe Historical Society enjoyed a demonstration of work in leaded glass by Avril Silk.

Ms. Silk began by showing her range of tools. Nothing elaborate, some were improvised rather than specialist. A hammer that had belonged to her grandmother, pliers, a glass cutter, a lead cutter, a soldering iron, and brushes.

These last are part of the safety precautions. Working in glass is a hazardous occupation. Glass is sharp, lead is poisonous and the soldering iron gets very hot, so care has to be taken all the time.

The brushes are used frequently to sweep away the broken fragments of glass, and no food is taken into the workshop.

Then the materials - glass in different colours and different opacity and strips of lead in "H" section and "U" section.

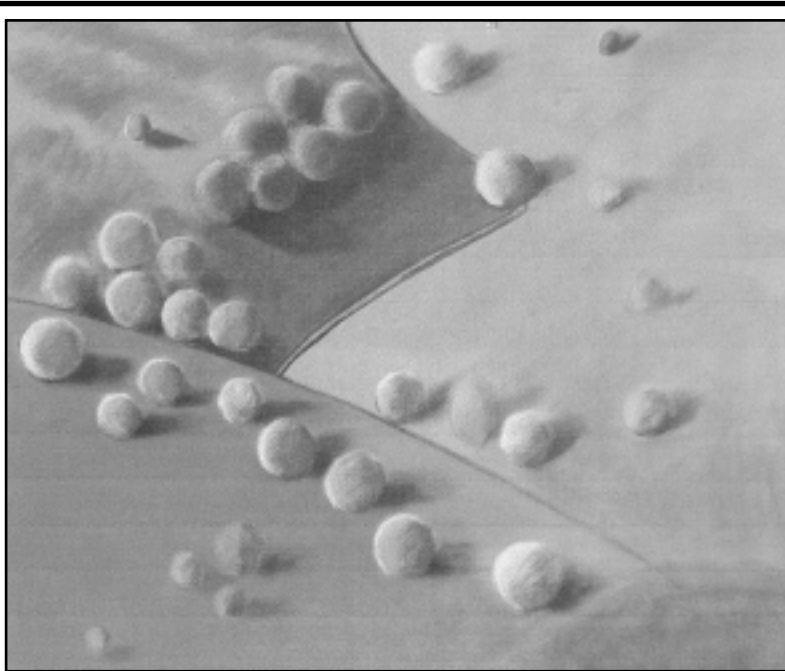
Ms. Silk laid a paper pattern on her bench and on the pattern some pieces of glass which, to save time, she had cut to shape before coming to the meeting.

The next step was to fit the lead strips around the pieces of glass and cut off the surplus length of lead so that they all fitted together snugly according to the design. It was then ready for the soldering iron. All this is not as simple as it sounds!

Ms. Silk also showed some photographs of her work, including windows she had designed and made for a number of local schools. This work can be viewed on her "web gallery" on www.avrilsilk.com.

The last meeting of the 2005-06 Historical Society programme will be a visit to the Peat Moors Centre at Shapwick Road, Westhay, near Glastonbury, which has featured in the television series "What the past has done for us." There is a teasop in the adjoining Garden Centre.

Meet in Croft Way car park at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 13th June to share transport. Enquiries ring 01984 624217.



Somerset Art Weeks

Saturday to Sunday 9th to 24th September

THERE are a record number of artists opening their studios once more during Somerset Art Weeks. Some will be familiar and some are new entries.

Talented local Wiveliscombe artist Clare DuVergier will again open her house/studio to the public with a new body of work which she describes as follows:

"During the autumn and winter of 2005 I spent many days walking, sketching painting and just looking at the landscapes of Exmoor, Dartmoor, the Quantocks and locally above Huish Moor.

"Generally known as a figurative painter, I have been looking for a simpler, more direct expression of the landscape characteristics, particularly in terms of colour and light and I hope

that this forthcoming exhibition demonstrates this.

"There will be a mixture of figurative watercolours and abstract oils and acrylics which reflect these journeys and interestingly, despite the mixture of styles, the unity of the palette links the paintings.

"Sometimes people feel embarrassed about coming into an open house/studio. They somehow feel that they are intruding. Please don't feel shy about visiting. I love meeting old and new faces and there is no obligation to purchase - just to look! I look forward to seeing you."

Clare's studio opening times will be shown in the SAW catalogue which will be available locally at the Community Office and she can be contacted to arrange viewings on 01984 6237811 or email at cfduvergier@btinternet.com

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Award winning film club AGM

BEFORE showing Emir Kusturica's "Life is a Miracle", a real cracker of a finale to an excellent season of mixed cinematic experiences, Mark Reynolds, chair of Cinema Obscura said:

"Drawing to a close on our sixth ground breaking season I would like to thank all our members and guests for sticking with us to see a great mix of films.

"I'm delighted at your interest and support. It makes it all worthwhile. As always the balance is hard to achieve, but this year so many films were especially good.

"We are aware that the venue isn't the most comfortable or convenient and at the moment we are seriously considering

another venue in Wiveliscombe so that we can provide you with a better service.

"Cinema Obscura aims to further establish its place in the community by endeavouring to attract a wider audience and more funding; amongst other exciting projects we are going to produce a short film.

"We are always looking for new committee members to widen our skills. We'd love it if people came forward. We hope you can join us in September for what promises to be the season to top all seasons."

Mark Reynolds
01643 841047



Up on the Farm

IT is May 8th and the birds are singing and the sun is shining. You might say farmers are never satisfied but we really could do with some rain!

The winter has been a very dry one and the grass is not keeping up with the cattle. At this time of year there should be plenty about, to ensure plenty to cut for silage and hay for the next winter!

The cattle are out now which saves a lot of work and it is good to see the calves out in the sunshine. We will have finished calving by the time you read this and I wonder if the balance will have changed much between the sexes.

At the moment we have mostly heifer calves, the complete opposite to last year. You will find that often there is a similar pattern to the number of one or the other across the different breeds. It would be interesting to do a survey around Wivey to see.



All our calves have been named with the letter Z this year and so we have such names as Zeus, Zoe and Zidane! Thank goodness for www.babynames.com!

We have sold one of the big bulls and the others have been advertised, so hopefully they will all be going to different places and to a variety of different herds.

We have had a clear TB test but if they are sold after 60 days of that test they will have to be individually tested before they can leave the farm.

This new measure, which is designed to help eradicate

TB, is both expensive and (in my opinion) a waste of time when the test is not very accurate and when the problem of TB is not tackled in wild animals.

I cannot say whether it has been spread from wildlife to cattle or cattle to wildlife. I just think it is wrong that any animal should suffer when it is within our power to eradicate it completely so that all animals can live a healthier life.

Over the weekend I was lucky enough to see four red deer lead out in the sunshine in a neighbour's field across the valley. I know they can do a lot of damage to crops, but they are truly beautiful creatures and a joy to watch.

Keep your eyes open as you travel the country lanes, and not just for wildlife but also for the busy farmers making the most of the sunshine to bring in a good silage crop. Have patience . . . will travel . . . so they say!

Gill Turner

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY 7TH

ELECTRIC JAMMING SESSION IN SKITTLE ALLEY - ALL-COMERS WELCOME

We shall be showing the World Cup in the bar on 2 screens throughout June and July

KEEP AN EYE ON THE BOARDS FOR FUTURE MUSIC DATES

Take-away Pizzas, Burgers and Curries available - From 6pm onwards every evening

Families welcome
Large beer garden with children's play equipment
DOGS ON LEADS WELCOME IN PUB AND ON PATIO AREAS